



Pickerington Public Library Patron Code of Conduct

Board Policy:

DATE REVIEWED: 4/13/2017

DATE APPROVED: 4/13/2017

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/13/2017

REPLACING POLICY EFFECTIVE: 9/14/2015

In order to provide a comfortable environment for use of the Pickerington Public Library and on the library's websites, the rules for patron behavior are listed below. The term patron addresses anyone on or utilizing library property. Any individual who repeatedly violates the library rules and regulations shall be denied the privilege of access to the library by the Board of Trustees. Specific violations with lengths of eviction are outlined in Appendix A. Any individual whose privileges have been denied may have the decision reviewed by the board.

The board authorizes the library director to bring to the attention of law enforcement authorities the identity of and circumstances involving those individuals who violate these rules. Individuals who have been evicted may be required to discuss the violation with a manager, the director, or assistant director before being readmitted. Juveniles may be required to bring a parent or guardian for such a conference.

Any individual evicted from the library has the right to appeal that eviction by following the steps outlined in the Eviction Procedure.

The library administration has the responsibility for maintaining order in the library and enforcing the established rules. The administration will maintain a Code of Conduct and ensure that the Patron Code of Conduct is posted prominently and communicated to library patrons in electronic and print formats. Library employees are authorized to bring to an individual's attention any act or omission which violates these rules and detracts from the decorum of the library. Such an individual will be asked to change the problem behavior to conform to the rules. If such change is not evident or forthcoming, that individual will be asked to leave the library property in accordance to Appendix A of the Patron Code of Conduct. Failure to leave, if asked, will result in the police being summoned. A violation of section 2911.21 of the Ohio Revised Code (Criminal Trespass) will be considered if the individual does not leave of his\her own accord.

Any misconduct that hinders the use of library materials or services, that disturbs the use of the library by other patrons or library staff, or endangers the safety of the patron in question or other patrons or library staff, is prohibited. The rules of conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Appropriate attire, including a fastened/closed shirt that is free of profanity must be worn.

2. Children under the age of nine must be accompanied by an adult. Responsibility for all children using the library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone, *not* with the library personnel.
3. Patrons must abide by the library's computer & Internet usage policy.
4. Patrons shall promptly leave the building at closing time or in an emergency.
5. Personal items are the sole responsibility of the owner. They should not be left unattended.
6. Behavior that interferes with library services and activities is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Unreasonable noise (including radios and ringing/musical tones played by cell phones) or loud talking which interferes with the rights of others
 - Physical or verbal abuse of library patrons or staff
 - Profanity or other abusive language toward other library patrons or toward employees
 - Harassing others, either verbally or through actions. Deliberate repeated behavior that is intimidating, hostile, offensive, or adversely impacts staff work performance
 - Fighting on library property
 - Roughhousing or running in the building
 - Misuse of library furnishings, restroom facilities, materials, or equipment
 - Unauthorized removal or attempted removal of materials (liable to prosecution —see Ohio Revised Code 2935.041)
 - Animals in the building, except service animals or those used in programs authorized by library staff
 - Any illegal activity
 - Gambling, panhandling, soliciting money, any activity for personal profit
 - Trespassing, such as entering or remaining on premises after closing, or failing to leave property for violating the code of conduct
 - Engaging in or soliciting a sexual act
 -
 - Consuming food or beverages while using library technology
 - Offensive odors including but not limited to body odor
 - Bathing, shaving, or washing clothes on library premises
 - Smoking, chewing tobacco, or using electronic cigarettes
 - Other acts disruptive to patrons or staff

The library does not permit weapons of any kind, either concealed or in plain view, in its facilities pursuant Ohio Revised Code, Section 2923.126, unless the owner of the weapon is a law enforcement officer.

The library reserves the right to inform law enforcement if any patron appears to be under the influence of any controlled substance.

The library reserves the right to limit the number of individuals who may gather together where ingress and egress are blocked.

The above rules are based on powers granted to a public library Board of Trustees under the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3375.40(H). They will be posted prominently in the library building.

With everyone's cooperation with the above policy, the library will continue to be a pleasant environment for our patrons and visitors.

The Board of Trustees of the Pickerington Public Library reserves the right to change this policy without notice.

Administrative Procedure:

DATE APPROVED: 4/13/2017
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/13/2017
REPLACING PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE: 9/14/2015

Patrons and visitors who fail to abide by the Library's policies are subject to having their library privileges suspended and/or being evicted from all premises of the Pickerington Public Library. Eviction or suspension of library privileges will be based upon the following administrative procedural guidelines.

Under normal circumstances, evictions and suspensions should be decided upon and imposed by the director, assistant director, or department managers. However, in the absence or unavailability of any of the foregoing and if circumstances require prompt action, all staff are authorized to evict a patron from the premises for the day of a code of conduct violation.

In the event a staff member issues an eviction under the prior sentence, the staff member is required to review the eviction with his or her supervisor or the director to determine whether the eviction should be extended beyond one day in accordance to Appendix A as outlined in the Code of Conduct policy.

Library staff members are to address behavior by individuals that violates Patron Regulations, Code of Conduct, or related Library policies and procedures in the following manner:

A. Warnings:

1. All staff members are required to inform patrons immediately when improper conduct is observed or reported. Patrons should be given a chance to respond to the allegation before any action is taken against the patron. If, after giving the patron a chance to respond, the staff member still believes that the patron has engaged in improper conduct, the staff member should warn the patron so the patron has the opportunity to correct their behavior.

Under certain circumstances, a patron determined to have engaged in improper conduct will not be given the opportunity to correct their behavior and will be asked to leave immediately. These situations include conduct which poses a threat to the safety of the staff and other patrons and/or involves criminal activity. See Appendix A of the Code of Conduct.

2. A patron who has been warned of improper behavior may also be asked to leave immediately after a warning and asked not to return until the improper conduct is corrected.
3. Patrons being accused of conduct that would normally result in eviction of a day or less will be verbally informed of the allegations against them and be given an opportunity to respond verbally.
4. Patrons being accused of conduct that would normally result in eviction for more than a day will be given written notice of the allegations against them and the opportunity to respond in writing to the allegation.
5. If the patron being accused is a minor, his/her parents/guardians should be informed of the allegation and be given the opportunity to respond, if possible.
6. At the discretion of the director or assistant director, a minor child can be informed not to return to the library until the child's parent or guardian contacts a manager, the director, or the assistant director.
7. Managers may issue evictions for up to 30 days. The director or assistant director is required to approve evictions for greater than 30 days.
8. The department manager or his/her designee may mail the eviction notice to the adult evictee, or if a minor child to their parent or guardian.
9. Patrons being accused of conduct that poses a risk to the safety of other patrons or staff may not be permitted on the premises while an initial determination of their case is made. In such cases, the Library will act as quickly as possible in ruling on the patron's case.
10. Patrons accused of other conduct may be asked to leave the premises for the remainder of the day but will be allowed back on the premises while an initial determination of their case is made.
11. For allegations that could result in evictions longer than one day, the director or assistant director will mail the patron a written notice of the decision within one business day of making the decision, if the patron's address is known. If the patron's address is unknown the director or assistant director will call to notify the patron of the decision, if the patron's phone number is known. The failure to mail or notify by phone the decision within one day will not make the eviction invalid.
12. Whenever possible, warnings and evictions issued to patrons should be witnessed by another staff member.
13. Staff members should attempt to identify the patron being warned and evicted by name. If additional information can be obtained, such as address, telephone number, and borrower card number, staff members should record this as well. At the discretion of the director or assistant director, if a patron being evicted fails to provide their name, they can be informed not to return to the library until they are willing to provide that information.

14. The patron's information as well as details about the warning and eviction, including date, time, and location of the situation, will be recorded on the incident report.

B. Rights of Redress:

Any patron evicted from Library premises has the right to appeal that eviction.

The patron is not permitted on the Library premises during any appeal, unless the original term of the eviction has expired.

If the individual disagrees with the eviction, the following procedure for redress will be utilized:

1. The patron should contact the director or assistant director within 48 hours of receiving his/her eviction to initiate an appeal. The patron may do so via telephone, mail, or email. The patron should explain the reasons for the appeal and include any additional information that he/she wants considered during review.
2. Upon receiving notice from the patron that he/she would like to appeal the eviction, the director/assistant director shall consider the appeal and whatever additional information is submitted and advise the patron of his/her decision on the eviction terms within seven business days or a reasonable amount of time dependent on the situation and the amount of research needed. Notice of the decision may be made via telephone, mail, or email.
3. Upon receipt of the decision by the director/assistant director, the patron has the right to further appeal the eviction to Board of Trustees. The patron should notify the director within 48 hours of receiving his/her notice of decision regarding his/her eviction to initiate a board appeal. The patron may do so via telephone, mail, or email. The patron's appeal will be added as an agenda item on the next scheduled Board of Trustees Meetings. The patron has the right to attend the meeting to personally explain the reasons for the appeal and to include any additional information that he/she wants considered during review.
4. The Board's decision will be considered final. The library's failure to meet any of the deadlines set forth above shall not invalidate an eviction.
5. The director/assistant director will update the incident report involving the patron's eviction being appealed by adding a supplement stating the appeal decision.

The seriousness of the action and repeated misbehavior of a patron may indicate that a longer eviction than that which is indicated in Appendix A of the Patron Code of Conduct is appropriate. The director/assistant director is authorized to recommend an extended an eviction to the Board for consideration. The Board will make the final decision on any eviction outside of the approved policy.